

## Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 AGR-02 AID-01 SS-07 NSC-06 /028 W

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6867

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 5346

DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (MADIGAN, EDWARD)

SUBJECT: CODEL MADIGAN

REF: (A) STATE 232618; (B) HAGUE 4993; (C) STATE 239507; (D) HAGUE 51

69

(1) SCHEDULE OUTLINED REF D MAINTAINED DURING CONGRESSMAN MADIGAN AND AA DAN DORAN VISIT. MEETINGS CAN BE CATEGORIZED AS POSITIVE, FRANK AND CORDIAL. IN VIEW OF EXTREME TRADE INTEREST IN MEETING WITH CODEL THE OCT. 15 MEETING AT KININLIJKE VERENIGING HET COMITE VAN GRAANHANDELAVERENIGING WAS HELD AT ROTTERDAM GRAIN EXCHANGE (BEURSE) AND THOSE PRESENT REPRESENTED ABOUT 90 PERCENT OF DUTCH GRAIN TRADE.

(2) FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS;  
(A) TRADE IS VERY WELL ACQUAINTED WITH U.S. GRAINS, THE GRAIN STANDARDS AND SUPPLIERS;  
(B) THERE HAVE BEEN VERY FEW INSTANCES OF END BUYERS COMPLAINING TO DUTCH IMPORTERS/SHIPPERS RE U.S. ORIGIN GRAINS. COMPLAINTS MOSTLY COVERED PERCENTAGE OF BROKENS AND SOMETIMES THE AMOUNT OF FOREIGN MATERIAL FOUND ON RECEIPT OF COMMODITY AT BUYER'S INLAND FACILITY. IN 1972 ONE FIRM ALSO COMPLAINED THAT PROTEIN CONTENT OF WHEAT WAS ONE-HALF PERCENT BELOW PERCENTAGE SPECIFIED IN CONTRACT. COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN SETTLED BETWEEN BUYERS AND SELLERS. OFFICE OF U.S. AG.ATT. HAS NOT REPEAT NOT RECEIVED ANY WRITTEN COMPLAINTS SINCE 1972. ONE LARGE WHEAT AND FEED GRAIN BUYER OBSERVED THAT INCIDENCE OF LOWER THAN CONTRACTED PROTEIN CONTENT IN HRW HAS INCREASED IN PAST FEW MONTHS. NO PROOF WAS OFFERED. IMPORTERS/  
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SHIPPERS REPS APPEARED SURPRISED AT THIS ALLEGATION;

(C) TWO REPS PRESENT AT COMITE MEETING REFERRED TO THEIR PERSONAL VISITS WITH FARMERS/PRODUCERS IN THE MIDWEST AND THE QUALITY OF GRAIN OBSERVED DURING SUCH VISITS AND ASKED WHY THEY DO NOT RECEIVE THAT QUALITY GRAIN. THESE TWO REPS RECOMMENDED REVISING U.S. GRAIN STANDARDS, PRACTICES FOR BLENDING, INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION. THESE COMMENTS RECEIVED WITH AMUSEMENT AND WITHOUT ANY EVIDENT EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FROM OTHERS PRESENT. FYI: A SENIOR OFFICIAL OF COMITE ADVISED US LATER THAT THESE TWO PEOPLE ARE KNOWN IN TRADE AS COMPLAINERS. END FYI;

(D) COMMENT: IN VIEW EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE IN U.S. AND TO A CERTAIN EXTENT IN DUTCH PRESS THE LOCAL TRADE IS FULLY AWARE OF ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IN U.S. GRAIN INSPECTION SYSTEM. WHEREAS DUTCH GRAIN TRADE WOULD NATURALLY WELCOME STEPS TO RESTORE INTEGRITY OF U.S. GRAIN INSPECTION CERTIFICATES THEY DO NOT APPEAR TO BE UNDULY CHARGED UP OVER IT. IT HAS NOT REPEAT NOT CHANGED OR INFLUENCED THEIR PURCHASING PATTERNS;

(E) CONGRESSMAN MADIGAN RECEIVED APPRECIATIVE APPLAUSE AT END OF HIS CONCLUDING REMARKS AT COMITE MEETING. IF IT HAD BEEN APPROPRIATE SAME WOULD ALSO HAVE HAPPENED AT OTHER SMALLER INFORMAL MEETINGS.

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